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SUBJECT: SE GRATION'S DECEMBER 15 MEETING WITH UNMIS JUBA  
HUMANITARIAN HEAD

¶1. (SBU) Summary: On his December 15 trip to Juba, Sudan, SE Gration met with UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) Deputy Regional Coordinator Lise Grande, and heard her concerns regarding mounting food shortages and governance issues in the region. Grande painted a grim picture of food needs, explaining that the World Food Program (WFP) would basically need to double its level of assistance over the short-term, to address the needs of growing numbers of food-insecure persons in Southern Sudan. Police forces in Sudan are poorly trained and equipped, Grande told SE Gration, and this results in the necessity of SPLA intervention in public emergencies.  
END SUMMARY.

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Southern Sudan Food Needs "Not Exaggerated"  
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¶2. (SBU) In a December 15 meeting in Juba, the capital of the semi-autonomous Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS), UNMIS Deputy Regional Coordinator Lise Grande told SE Gration that the number of food-insecure people in Southern Sudan has increased from the previous level of 1.5 million, with minimum estimates now at 1.8 million, and higher estimates ranging up to 2.2 million for 2010. Grande presented an emotionally-charged plea for larger donor contributions to the WFP, and asked SE Gration to "tell the EU to stop being cynical and help us with food. We are not exaggerating the need."

¶3. (SBU) According to Grande, the WFP is stretched to the limit in several ways: there is insufficient food available to assist populations in need, and the WFP's food distribution capabilities are operating at top capacity. To improve food availability for 2010, the WFP distribution infrastructure itself will need to be upgraded, which will incur additional financial strain. Grande told SE Gration that the WFP aims to almost double its food distribution from 100,000 metric tons in 2009 to 175,000 metric tons, but that the EU is only being asked for extra funds to cover 30,000 additional metric tons, with the remaining funds being spread among other donors. (Note: USAID has consistently provided 50 percent of WFP's emergency appeals for the past several years, and is doing so again this year. Thus far, USAID has provided approximately USD 350 million in Title II emergency funding for WFP's 2010 Emergency Operation (EMOP). USAID will likely make another contribution to WFP in early 2010. End note.)

¶4. (SBU) Grande explained that the GOSS also faces a dilemma regarding food aid. It would like to be responsive to the food crisis, but given last year's corruption scandal in which it contracted for the purchase of six billion Sudanese Pounds (Note: Appx. 2.7 billion US dollars. End Note.) worth of grain, most of which was never delivered, it cannot credibly purchase food now. The GOSS would therefore prefer to pay the WFP for food purchase, but still get political "credit" with its population for addressing

the food crisis. Grande encouraged the Special Envoy to press the WFP to accept this "creative" arrangement.

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Security and Governance Troubles  
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15. (SBU) Grande told SE Gration that a recent USAID Governance Team study had given the UN some much-needed benchmarks for assessment, and that the UN was now in the process of rounding-up stakeholders to assess their progress, and the progress of the GOSS, against the report's findings. She reported that, while the GOSS has seen substantial improvements in executive functions, public finance, and administrative issues, the most important area - security - remained deeply problematic. Grande laid the blame on disorganized donors. Nonetheless, Grande noted that the problems could be addressed with relatively small amounts of money: "We're talking tens, not hundreds, of millions of dollars." This money, according to Grande, would go to building a rudimentary command structure and providing skills training to the police.

16. (SBU) Grande and SE Gration agreed that the police force of GOSS had fallen behind the Army in its ability to provide even the most basic of protection to the population. This makes the Army the de-facto police service, and "eighty percent of the time, even the Army can't get there soon enough" said Grande. Grande concluded that it was critical that this stabilization gap be addressed prior to the 2010 elections and 2011 referendum.

17. (SBU) This cable has been cleared by SE Gration's staff.

ASQUINO